



Dear Citizens,

This week I requested and received the resignation of Police Commissioner Leonard Hamm. Commissioner Hamm was a talented and dedicated public servant, I thank him for his long career and commitment to Baltimore. While we search for a new commissioner, Deputy Commissioner Frederick H. Bealefeld, III will serve as Acting-Commissioner of the Police Department. Acting Commissioner Bealefeld knows the department, understands the challenges we face in Baltimore, and I have confidence that he will be able to continue moving the department forward.

As Mayor, I have two goals when it comes to law enforcement – protecting our citizens from our most violent criminals, and providing communities the resources they need to overcome longtime social challenges. There are few responsibilities of city government that outweigh these goals. And, we must be focused on creating long-term solutions, not quick fixes.

To help stem the tide of violence in the city, I announced a three-part public safety strategy to bring back hope and security to the people of Baltimore. This strategy, which our police department has already put into action with help from other city agencies, is built around these themes:

- **Targeted Enforcement** at the people and activities that present the greatest threat to public safety and;
- **Engage Communities** and empower citizens in their own neighborhoods;
- **Build Strong Partnerships** with federal and state agencies, and institutions and foundations to make all our efforts more effective.

We have already implemented Operation Protect, a program that combines the efforts of law enforcement, city services and community groups to get young people and adults the resources they need to learn, to find jobs, to get help with housing, and treatment for their addictions. Operation Protect is complimented by officers knowing the areas they patrol and the people they serve. I visited the neighborhoods that are part of Operation Protect, and it is already

bringing hope to residents who were living in fear.

This month, I announced a six step plan for the City of Baltimore to address staffing in the police department and ensure that the skilled officers we have are joined by talented new recruits. The Department will streamline the recruitment process, better prepare recruits for the civil service exam, and offer more benefits to individuals who commit to long-term service in the Police Department. Increasing the size of the police force – and maintaining our commitment to quality recruits – is a critical part of our strategy to make Baltimore safer. I am committed to reducing the burden on the officers we have now, and attracting the best and the brightest to this noble profession.

Restoring and strengthening trust between police and citizens is vital. I am confident that Acting Commissioner Bealefeld and the dedicated men and women of the Baltimore Police Department are the right people to get the job done.

I am grateful have partners in city government and law enforcement who understand the problems we face. The City Council, our state delegation and countless other partners are united behind a single strategy for making Baltimore safer. State's Attorney Patricia Jessamy, who has been working on the issue of illegal guns for over a decade, will continue to play a pivotal role in keeping criminals off the streets.

Changes in leadership are sometimes needed, and now we all have to focus on moving forward. Working together with all our partners will allow us to step up enforcement of our gun laws and get criminals and illegal guns off the streets of Baltimore.

As always, I am interested in what you think about our plan to make our city a dynamic place to LIVE, EARN, PLAY and LEARN. Please [email me](#) your comments or suggestions.

Sincerely,

Sheila Dixon  
Mayor  
Baltimore

## **Mayor Dixon's Neighborhood Conversation**

*Thursday , July 26<sup>th</sup> , 2007 at 6:30 p.m.*

Israel Baptist Church  
1220 North Chester Street  
Baltimore

6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m.  
(Arrive at 6:00 p.m. for registration)

Hosted by Mayor Sheila Dixon, the Neighborhood Conversation is an opportunity for citizens to speak with the Mayor and her Cabinet about issues that affect their

communities. Several Agencies will be in attendance to distribute information about services and resources.

## **Baltimore Heritage Area Now Soliciting Grant Applications**

*Deadline is August 22, 2007*

August 22, 2007 is the application deadline for the **Baltimore Heritage Area Small Cap Grant Fund**.

The Fund provides matching grants of up to \$10,000 for capital projects within the Baltimore Heritage Area. For a copy of the application and instructions, log on to [www.baltimorecity.gov/government/heritage](http://www.baltimorecity.gov/government/heritage) and click on "What are the benefits of inclusion in the Baltimore City Heritage Area?" and "view the application."

For more information, contact Abbi Wicklein-Bayne  
e-mail: [abbi.wicklein-bayne@baltimorecity.gov](mailto:abbi.wicklein-bayne@baltimorecity.gov)  
Phone: (443) 984-2369.

## **Flicks from the Hill**

*Thursday Starting at 9pm, June 21-August 9*

Thursdays at 9pm  
Next Movie: July 26<sup>th</sup> *Edward Scissorhands* (1990)

FREE

The American Visionary Art Museum  
800 Key Highway, Baltimore  
[www.AVAM.org](http://www.AVAM.org)

The American Visionary Art Museum's Hughes Family Outdoor Theater Presents "Flicks from the Hill", a series of free family films screened under the AVAM's 'Golden Hand'. On nights when a film is showing, the Museum is free from 5:00 pm – 9:00 pm.

## **Baltimore Farmers' Market**

*Sundays Under the JFX*

Baltimore Farmers' Market:

Everyone is invited to enjoy this one-of-a-kind shopping experience at economical prices. While strolling the market, guests can revel at the sight of the large quantity of the freshest fruits and vegetables, eggs, a variety of breads from Maryland area farmers, and delight in homemade treats. In addition, food vendors add spice to the market with cultural cuisine, popular pit beef sandwiches, pastries, cheeses, and gourmet treats.

Sundays, May 6 - December 23, 2007  
8am to sellout, approximately noon

Holliday and Saratoga streets underneath the Jones Falls Expressway

## **Activities for the Whole Family**

### **Special Events All Around Baltimore**

The Baltimore City Department of Recreation and Parks offers activities for city residents and guests - educational hikes and walks, sports leagues, youth and senior activities, and fun for the family.

Please visit [Rec & Parks' Events Calendar](#) for dates and times.



### **TV25: How Baltimore sees itself**

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